

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Consideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 remain in this application. Claims 1-11 have been withdrawn. Claim 28 has been added.

In the Office action mailed October 29, 2007 the Examiner required restriction between Claims 1-11 (Group I), drawn to drawn to a method of manufacturing a filter, and Claims 12-27 (Group II) drawn to a device for retaining a substance.

Responsive thereto, Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group I, without traverse and without prejudice to, inter alia, Applicants' right to pursue the withdrawn claims, as well as further product-by-process and/or generic claims, in a divisional application.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-27 have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as deleting reference designations typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims, beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to -- wherein-- and removing the usage "... for example ..." from

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Reply to Office action of Oct. 29, 2007

Claim 19. Claims 1-27 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability, and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Claim 28 has been added to set out forth patentable features formerly recited in Claim 19.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for consideration by the Examiner. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance.

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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